

REMARKS:

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 2 for informalities, and rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zetterstrom in view of Miyazaki. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 3, in accordance with the suggestions of the Examiner, set forth in the objections, and for clarity. Claim 2 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, set forth in the objections, and for clarity. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1 rather than canceled claim 3 and for clarity. No new matter was added.

The Claim Objections

As per the Examiner's suggestions, claim 1 lines 8 and 9 have been amended to read "a road" and "lateral force on the tire," respectively. Claim 2, lines 5-6 have been amended to read "an upper arm."

The 103 rejection of original claim 3 (amended claim 1)

Original claim 3 contained the limitation that the protruding ends take forms of rings aligned in rows. Claim 1, which has been amended for clarity, contains the limitation that each of said protruding ends comprises a ring shape.

The Examiner referred to Miyazaki as allegedly disclosing protruding ends from a shoulder portion of a tire, forming a plurality of rows forming rings. Miyazaki does not disclose or suggest protruding ends comprising ring shapes.

For at least this reason, amended claim 1, as well as its dependents, is patentable over Zetterstrom and Miyazaki.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, and 4

are rendered moot by the patentability of original claim 3, amended claim 1, from which claims 2 and 4 depend.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this

application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060945-0137).

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica C. Stahnke (Reg. No. 57,570)

for

Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32,797)

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

One Market, Spear Street Tower

San Francisco, CA 94105

415.442.1000

February 2, 2006

Date